

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended): Amino acid particles, in which ~~a sample of the particles has~~ have a bulk density not more than 0.1 g/cm^3 gcm^{-3} .

Claim 2. (currently amended): Amino acid particles according to claim 1, in which ~~a sample of the particles has~~ have a bulk density not more than 0.05 g/cm^3 gcm^{-3} .

Claim 3. (Original): Amino acid particles having a mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) not more than $5\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 4. (Original): Amino acid particles being in the form of flakes having a thickness of not more than $0.5\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 5. (Original): Amino acid particles according to claim 4 in which the flakes having a thickness of not more than 100 nm.

Claim 6. (Previously presented): Amino acid particles according to claim 1, in which the amino acid is leucine.

Claim 7. (Previously presented): A powder for use in a dry powder inhaler, the powder including active material and amino acid particles according to claim 1.

Claim 8. (Original): A powder according to claim 7, in which the powder includes not more than 20% by weight of amino acid based on the weight of the powder.

Claim 9. (Previously presented): A powder according to claim 8, in which the powder includes not more than 10% by weight of amino acid based on the weight of the powder.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A powder for use in a dry powder inhaler, said powder including active material, particles of a diluent, and amino acid particles in which ~~a sample of the~~ amino acid particles ~~has~~ have a bulk density of not more than 0.1 g/cm^3 ~~0.1 g/cm^3~~ .

Claim 11. (Original): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent includes a crystalline sugar.

Claim 12. (Previously presented): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent has a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the diluent particles have a particle size not more than $10\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 13. (Previously presented): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent has a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the diluent particles have a particle size not less than $50\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 14. (Previously presented): A powder according to claim 10, in which the diluent has a fine particle portion having a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the particles of the fine particle portion have a particle size not more than $10\mu\text{m}$ and a coarse particle portion having a particle size such that at least 90% by weight of the particles of the coarse particle portion have a particle size not less than $50\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 15. (Original): A powder according to claim 14, in which the fine particle portion and coarse particle portion comprise the same material.

Claim 16. (Previously presented): A powder according to claim 14, in which the powder includes not more than 5% by weight of the fine particle portion based on the weight of the powder.

Claim 17. (Previously presented): A powder according to claim 14, in which the powder includes not more than 95% by weight of the coarse particle portion based on the weight of the powder.

Claim 18. (Currently amended): A dry powder inhaler, the inhaler containing powder, wherein said powder includes active material and amino acid particles in which ~~a sample of the amino acid particles has~~ have a bulk density of not more than $0.1 \text{ g/cm}^3 \text{ gcm}^{-3}$.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): A method of preparing particles of amino acid, the method including the step of forming solid amino acid particles from a vapor or from a solvent, the method being such that the particles are formed while being suspended in a gas flow, said particles having a mass median aerodynamic diameter (MMAD) not more than $5\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 20. (Currently amended): A method of preparing particles of amino acid ~~as claimed in claim 1~~, the method including the step of condensing amino acid vapor to form solid amino acid particles, wherein ~~a sample of said amino acid particles has~~ have a bulk density not more than $0.1 \text{ g/cm}^3 \text{ gcm}^{-3}$.

Claim 21. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 19, in which particles of amino acid are formed by aerosol condensation.

Claim 22. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 20, in which the method includes the steps of

- a) heating the amino acid so that the amino acid forms a vapor;

- b) mixing the amino acid vapor with cool air to form a cloud of condensed amino acid particles; and
- c) collecting the condensed particles.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): A method according to claim 20, the method including the step of heating the amino acid particles to a temperature of at least 150°C at ambient pressure.

Claim 24. (Cancelled)

Claim 25. (Original): A method according to claim 19, in which the method includes the step of spray drying to form solid particles of amino acid.

Claim 26. (Original): A method according to claim 25, in which the material to be dried comprises amino acid in solution.

Claim 27. (Cancelled)

Claim 28. (Cancelled)

Claim 29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, in which the method is such that the MMAD of the solid amino acid particles produced is not more than 10 μ m.

Claims 30-38(Cancelled)